

**Amendments to the Claims**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobial catheter prepared by treating a polymeric catheter, for an effective period of time, with a solution comprising a solvent and an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of chlorhexidine free base and the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 to 1:5.
2. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 1, wherein the ratio is 1:1.
3. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 1, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof.
4. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 3, wherein the solvent is a mixture of between 10 and 30 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 70 and 90 percent (volume/volume) ethanol.
5. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 3, wherein the solvent is a mixture of 20 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 80 percent (volume/volume) ethanol.
6. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 3, wherein the solvent is a mixture of between 75 and 95 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 5 and 25 percent (volume/volume) methanol.
7. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 3, wherein the solvent is a mixture of about 85 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 15 percent (volume/volume) methanol.
8. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 1, wherein the catheter is a

hydrophilic polymeric catheter.

9. (Cancelled).
10. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the catheter has a lumen that is treated for an effective period of time with a solution comprising a solvent and an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of chlorhexidine free base and the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 to 1:5.
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine diacetate.
13. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 10, wherein the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine diacetate.
- 14-16. (Cancelled).
17. (Previously Presented) An antimicrobial catheter prepared by treating a polymeric catheter, for an effective period of time, with a solution comprising (1) a solvent; (2) an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt; and (3) a substance selected from the group consisting of (i) an organic acid, at a concentration of between 0.1 and 5 percent; (ii) an anti-inflammatory agent, at a concentration of between 0.1 and 5 percent; and (iii) a hydrogel at a concentration of between 0.5 to 10 percent, wherein the ratio of chlorhexidine free base and the water-soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 to 1:5.
18. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 17, wherein the concentration of organic acid in the solution is between 0.1 and 2 percent.
19. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 17, wherein the concentration of anti-inflammatory agent is between 0.1 and 1 percent.
20. (Previously Presented) The antimicrobial catheter of claim 17, wherein the concentration of hydrogel in the solution is between 1 and 5 percent.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a catheter comprising

(i) contacting the medical article with a solution comprising (a) a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, reagent alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, and a mixture thereof; and (b) an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of chlorhexidine free base and water soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 and 1:5;

(ii) contacting the medical article with the solution for an effective period of time to allow the medical article to swell;

(iii) removing the medical article from the solution; and

(iv) drying the medical article.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a catheter having a lumen comprising

(i) contacting the lumen with a solution comprising (a) a solvent selected from the group consisting of water, reagent alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof; and (b) [[a]] an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water-soluble chlorhexidine salt, wherein the weight/weight ratio of chlorhexidine free base and water soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 and 1:5;

(ii) contacting the lumen with a solution for an effective period of time to allow the lumen to swell;

(iii) removing the solution from the lumen; and

(iv) drying the catheter.

23. (Previously Presented) A catheter prepared by treating a polymeric catheter for about thirty minutes to about one hour with a solution comprising a solvent and an antimicrobial mixture consisting essentially of chlorhexidine free base and a water soluble chlorhexidine salt,

wherein the weight/weight ratio of the chlorhexidine free base and the water

soluble chlorhexidine salt in the solution is between 1:1 and 1:5 and

wherein the treated catheter exhibits sustained antimicrobial activity for at least about six days.

24. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 23, wherein the solvent comprises between 75 and 95 percent (volume/volume) tetrahydrofuran and 5 and 25 percent (volume/volume) methanol.